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military establishment, the nurses and medical staff, I believe, were not federalized and therefore have not been regarded as compensable. I believe, however, that if a test case were made their position in the military establishment could be legally established. It has placed the nursing service of the Red Cross in a most embarrassing situation. We urged the nurses to enter this service, emphasizing that it was as important that the health of the soldiers in the cantonments should be protected and the care of the men who were in the hospitals connected with the great ammunition plants, which provided the necessary implements of war, insured, as the care of the sick and wounded soldiers in military hospitals. Inasmuch as nurses accepted this duty cheerfully and patriotically it seems most unjust that they are now ineligible for the same considerations as have been accorded to Red Cross nurses who entered the Army and Navy, also at our request.

CLARA D. NOYES.

LETTERS FROM NAVY NURSES

II

DEAR EDITOR: Some time has elapsed since we sent a word to you from this far-away station, but we have been "carrying on" and trying each day to feel that some progress is made in the work which is peculiar to these islands. We have had a change recently in our Senior Medical Officer, but there is no change in the amount of interest in our work. No one would dream that our present Medical Officer had recently left the school for the instruction of Hospital Corpsmen since he has, with so much ease, assumed the supervision of the school for native women. I am now making plans for the graduation. The Governor went to Sydney in June and, therefore, the date is later than in former years. There are but two graduates this year, but they have done good work and, I feel sure, will continue to develop as they go out among their own people. I hope that one of the graduates of last year will be able to go to the United States for a post-graduate course, as in the case of Pepe. Her sister is married to a native pastor. As you know, we depend upon the pastors to encourage the native girls to enter the Training School and also to encourage them to retain and act upon the knowledge they have received. Pepe found it a little hard to readjust herself when she returned from the United States, but she dearly loves her own people and very quickly took her place amongst them and has been of inestimable help since that time. Her experience at the children's hospital was a great benefit to her. She worked hard and the hours were long, but she learned a great deal. This morning, as a celebration (it is July 4), one of our large water tanks burst and sent a flood of water over the hill against one of the hospital wards. The houses are all open, but there is a cement wall about eighteen inches high around one side of the house and this wall broke the force of the stream and really was the means of saving the patients, but the water rushed through the ward, under the beds, and out the other side, leaving everyone covered with mud. The ward was without water and the nurses' quarters were also affected as we were supplied from the same system. On account of the holiday, I was afraid we should not be able to have the damage repaired immediately, but it was all in order by 2 p. m., as they piped us to another tank. This is unusually expeditious work for this easy-going place. I have greatly enjoyed my period of duty here. It has not been all pleasure, but what duty is? I do hope that the nurses who come to relieve us will be adaptable. A change is always hard for the native nurses for they are not sure if the change will bring someone who likes them and they are very easily affected. We have been fortunate in having Miss G—, who is young and full of fun and has the faculty of always making them happy.

At the same time, she has wonderful control over them and they love to work with her.

Tutuila, Samoa

B. D. M.

IS THE MODERN NURSE COMMERCIAL?

DEAR EDITOR: In the October *Pictorial Review*, Dr. Charles Mayo attacks the training schools and the nursing profession most unjustly. All professions contain some members who have mistaken their calling, and it is true that our nursing profession has not escaped. Dr. Mayo blames the training schools for what he calls "over-educating," and condemns the three-year course. The writer of this article was one of the first three-year-course students. Then, and ever since then, the training schools have endeavored to meet the demands of the medical profession. Each year has shown big strides in the medical world. The Mayo brothers have been the admiration far and near for their surgery, and their splendid success. Could this success have been assured if a body of splendid women had been less educated, and therefore unable to cope with their demands? During an operation the nurse anticipates the wishes of the surgeon. If she makes the slightest slip she is a handicap to both the patient and the surgeon, and the after-care; surely that must count, where the nurse spares not herself to save life. Perhaps she is weary and fatigued from the strain, but she does her work bravely, and without complaint for the sake of the patient. The nurse is often overlooked by the surgeon; the results of her efforts are frequently lost sight of, and the Mayo brothers are praised, as are all successful surgeons for their splendid work. Nurses are taught loyalty to their superior officers. Very often the patient who for some reason lacks confidence in the attending physician regains it through the efforts of the nurse. Dr. Mayo denounces the nurses as a Union, and calls them the "greatest autocratic closed shop in the country." This attitude is most unjust. We have our rates for services rendered, a stated sum, for the benefit and protection of the public, with the understanding that we use our own judgment, according to the family circumstances. Many times a nurse stays over for two or three days without extra remuneration to help those who feel that they cannot longer afford her services. I know of many nurses giving this extra service gladly. It is often the very wealthy who take advantage of a nurse, and who try in every way to make her earn her pay, even giving the house maids a vacation, and expecting the nurse to meet every emergency. Many times a family will resent a nurse's time off duty. A patient complained, not long ago, that all previous nurses went out every day, regardless of the patient's condition, yet when this patient did not need the nurse's services, she expected her to act as a companion. The last nurse went out twice in two weeks, and yet a rest was not even suggested. The visit of the physician is anticipated by the patient, and great are the preparations made, so that she may look her best. The physician sees her for probably ten minutes, during which she is all smiles. The moment his visit is over she resumes her complaints, all her aches and pains return for the nurse's benefit, until it becomes almost unendurable. This does not refer to the majority of patients, fortunately, but demonstrates what nurses frequently have to contend with. Another case I would like to cite. I had a patient who continually complained of the expense she was undergoing in having a trained nurse, yet she often expressed the wish that her doctor would come every day, and she would willingly pay for such unnecessary calls.

The nursing profession is called a Union because of a few members who